AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert pages 1-5 of the sequence listing filed herewith after the Examples and prior to the claims.

On page 6 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 with the following:

Specifically in one embodiment of the present invention a dendritic cell is transduced with a construct containing the a small interfering RNA comprising the double stranded nucleotide sequence of 5'GATCCCCTGCCCTTGTCCGAGCTTTATTCAAGAGATAAAGCTCGGACAAGGGC

ATTTTTGGAAA-3'; forward (SEQ ID NO: 2) and 5'AGCTTTTCCAAAAATGCCCTTGTCCGAGCTTTATCTCTTGAATAAAGCTCGGACAAG GGCAGGG-3'; reverse (SEQ ID NO: 3).

On page 40 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following:

To generate a vector-based suppression of MINOR expression, the construct pSUPER-retro (Oligoengine) was employed as a template. The siRNA oligonucleotides designed contained a sense strand of 19 nucleotide sequence followed by a short spacer (TTCAAGAGA) ~~(SEQ ID NO. 7),~~ the reverse complement of the sense strand, and five thymidines as a RNA pol III transcriptional stop signal. Briefly, the pSUPER-retro vector was digested with BglII and HindIII and the annealed oligos (5'-GATCCCCTGCCCTTGTCCGAGCTTTATTCAAGAGATAAAGCTCGGACAAGGGCATTTT TGGAAA-3'; forward (SEQ ID NO. 2)and 5'-AGCTTTTCCAAAAATGCCCTTGTCCGAGCTTTATCTCTTGAATAAAGCTCGGACAAGG

GCAGGG-3'; reverse (SEQ ID NO. 3)) were ligated into the vector according to the manufacturer's protocol. To construct lentivectors encoding the siRNA construct, the complete human H1-RNA promoter and the siRNA cassette and the PGK promoter were subcloned at XhoI and NheI 5' of the reporter eGFP gene of the third generation self-inactivating lentiviral vector, Sin-18 provided by D. Trono (Zufferey, R. et al., J Virol 72, 9873-80, 1998). All inserts were sequenced.

On page 42 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 with the following:

After 6 days of cultures, the cells in suspension were reseeded in complete medium with and on days 5 & 6 were transduced with the LV encoding the siRNA-MINOR-GFP or control siRNA-GFP (sequence GTATACGTGTTTGCTCCCTT(SEQ ID NO~~.~~: ~~13~~15), no known homology to any gene). On day 9, the cells were analyzed for induction of cell death. As the plots depicted in Figure 8 show, there is no significant difference in cell death in the GFP- fractions in both populations or the GFP+ in the control. In contrast, there is a significant decrease in cell death in the transduced (GFP+) fraction in the siRNA-MINOR-expressing population, indicating an inhibition of apoptosis. Accordingly, it is indicated that transduction with the siRNA can prolong DC survival.